

Application No. 10/742,892
Amendment dated May 19, 2006
Response to Official Action of January 20, 2006

REMARKS

Claims 1 to 46 are presently pending in the subject patent application, with Claims 1 to 10 and Claims 23 to 46 being withdrawn from consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b).

Claims 11 to 13 and 21 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) for allegedly being anticipated by Price (US 4,090,266). However, the Examiner stated that Claims 14 to 20 and Claim 22 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for his review and careful consideration of this application, and has amended the claims substantially in accordance with the subject matter allowed by the Examiner.


Specifically, the Applicant has cancelled Claims 11, 12 and 14, without prejudice, and has incorporated the subject matter thereof into dependent Claim 16. Further, the Applicant has amended Claims 13 and 15 to depend from Claim 16; Claim 17 to depend from Claim 15; Claim 18 to depend from Claim 17; and Claim 22 to depend from Claim 16. Since Claims 13, 15, 17, 18 and 22 depend (directly or indirectly) from allowable Claim 16, the Applicant submits that Claims 13, 15, 17, 18 and 22 are allowable.

The Applicant has also incorporated the subject matter of independent Claim 11 into dependent Claim 19. Further, the Applicant has amended rejected dependent Claim 21 to depend from allowed Claim 20, instead of Claim 11. Since Claims 20 and 21 depend (directly or indirectly) from allowable Claim 19, the Applicant submits that Claims 20 and 21 are allowable.

Independent Claims 1 to 10, Claims 23 to 26, Claims 27 to 45, and Claim 46 were withdrawn from consideration pursuant to a restriction issued under 37 CFR 1.142(b) in the preceding Official Action. The Applicant has amended independent Claims 1, 23, 27 and 46 to include the limitations of allowable Claim 19, and has cancelled dependent Claims 3 and 29, without prejudice. The Applicant requests rejoinder and reconsideration of the withdrawn claims.

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